Only a month later, Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball attended conference at Heber City, and they praised Joseph and his counsellors for the great amount of work which had been accomplished, and complemented all of the pioneers for the new homes and thriving little city they had established in the wilderness. Several Presiding Elders and Bishops were appointed and ordained by Joseph during the conference, William Forman at West Heber, David Van Wagoner at Midway, and John Harvey at Center Creek.

Two more children were born in 1863, Betsy Eunice to Pernetta on February 28th and Mary Cecelia to Jane on May 24th. Little Mary Cecelia lived less than a year, dying in May, 1864. The hurt of her loss was softened somewhat by the birth of Alphonzo Brigham to Elizibeth several months earlier, on March 15th, 1864.

High on a landmark rock above the Provo River at Hailstone there is an American Flag painted, in a place where it can be seen from all over the valley below. There are several stories of how that flag came to be painted there. Some claim that soldiers under Col. Patrick Connor's command at Fort Douglas painted it, but a Murdock family tradition tells that Benny Norris painted the flag for that first Independence Day celebration at Heber Valley in 1863. But whether he painted it or not, there is no doubt that he kept it painted so long as he lived, and today it is still there for all to see. Benny had become too much for Sally to handle at Salt Lake City, so when Joseph moved to Heber, he brought Benny to live with his family there.

On September 25th, 1864 Sally Stacy Murdock died at the adobe brick home she and Nymphus had built at 3rd South and Main Street at Salt Lake City. She was 86 years of age and had been one of the earliest converts to the church in New York State. She had suffered through the trials at Nauvoo and the hard times at Winter Quarters. She was one of the pioneers of 1847, driving her own one-horse shay across the prairies soon after she had become a widow. She brought the first sheep into the territory and for years afterwards clopped their wool, spun it into cloth and made clothes which she gave to the needy. She was always the first to help the less fortunate and was beloved by all. She was a stalwart in the church and raised her sons to become the pioneers, colonizers, and church leaders they became noted for. Her passing was a sore trial for Joseph, but it nearly drove Nymphus to despair, for at nearly the same time as

her death, a diphtheria epidemic struck and claimed five of his children, sorely testing his faith.

Three out of four of his wife Sarah's children died during the epidemic, Nymphus Jr., Sarah, and Betsy, while two of Ester's three children, Stanley and Alphonso also died. The death of his mother and five children almost broke Nymphus. He became very bitter and wanted to leave the valley, saying, "*Brigham Young should have known better than to send us to such a God-forsaken place!*" Joseph tried to console him, but Nymphus cried out, "*It is very well for you to talk that way, for you have not lost any children!*" Joseph weighed his brother's words with deep sympathy, and then he said, "*Pick any of my children that you want to replace those who were lost.*" At first Nymphus was speechless and refused, but when Joseph told him that it would be easier for his wives if they had children to care for and ease their hurt, Nymphus consented and took Joseph's son Thomas and daughters Rocksina and Charlotte. Few ever knew how Nymphus came to raise those children of Joseph's until many years later when John H. reluctantly told his son Paul how Joseph's wisdom in a time of crisis not only gave comfort to Nymphus and his wives, but also kept their two families united as one.[14]

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14. Interview with Paul Murdock, April 20th, 1972.